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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method to determine the effectiveness of an asphaltene dispersant in an asphaltene containing oil comprising:

- (a) extracting asphaltenes from said oil;
- (b) dissolving said extracted asphaltenes in a hydrocarbon solvent wherein said hydrocarbon solvent is a mixture of an alkane solvent and an aromatic solvent selected from the group consisting of benzene, methyl benzene, ethyl benzene and isopropyl benzene to provide a dissolved asphaltenes solution;
- (c) measuring the rate of precipitation, k_1 of said dissolved asphaltenes;
- (d) dissolving ~~said extracted asphaltenes~~ and said asphaltene dispersant in a known quantity of the dissolved asphaltene solution of step (b) to provide a dissolved dispersant treated asphaltene solution;
- (c) measuring the rate of precipitation, k_2 of said dissolved dispersant treated asphaltenes;
- (f) determining the difference K between k_1 and k_2 .

2. (cancelled)

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3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein said solvent ratio is in the ratio range of alkane solvent:aromatic solvent of 0.5:1.5 to 1.5:0.5.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein said alkane solvent is selected from the group consisting of C3 to C16 alkanes, cyclopentane, cyclohexane and mixtures thereof.
5. (cancelled)
6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said alkane solvent is C3 to C16 alkane.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said alkane solvent is ~~cyclopentane~~ cyclopentane.
8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said alkane solvent is cyclohexane.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 1 wherein said aromatic solvent is benzene.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 1 wherein said aromatic solvent is methyl benzene.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 1 wherein said aromatic solvent is ethyl benzene.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 1 wherein said aromatic solvent is isopropyl benzene.

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13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)